

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 4, 2005, has been received and carefully considered. In this response, claims 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 29, 30, 34, 35, 45, 46, 52, 55, and 56 have been amended, and claims 11, 23, 28, and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice. Entry of the amendments to claims 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 29, 30, 34, 35, 45, 46, 52, 55, and 56, and the cancellation of claims 11, 23, 28, and 33 without prejudice is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is also respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

At the outset, Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 6 of the Office Action that claims 3, 4, 11, 12, 15, 16, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed below, independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 30, have been amended to incorporate the limitations of cancelled dependent claims 11, 23, 28, and 33, respectively. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 13, 25, and 30 should now be allowable, and acknowledgement of same is respectfully requested. Also, independent claims 35, 45, and 55 have been amended to substantially incorporate the limitations of cancelled dependent claim 33. Thus, amended

independent claims 35, 45, and 55 should now be allowable, and acknowledgement of same is respectfully requested.

I. THE OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25-27, 30-32, AND 35-64

On pages 3-7 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25-27, 30-32, and 35-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,930,257) in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed with amendment.

Regarding independent claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 35, 45, and 55, the Examiner asserts that Smith et al. teaches the claimed invention, except for teaching that the second ATM network has an address format different from the address format of the first ATM network. The Examiner then asserts that Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) teaches ATM networks having different address formats, and thus the claimed invention would have been obvious in view of Smith et al. and AAPA.

Applicants respectfully disagree. However, in order to further the present patent application toward allowance, each of claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 35, 45, and 55 have been amended to at least substantially incorporate the limitations of one of claims 11, 23, 28, and 33, which the Examiner has previously indicated

as being allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 35, 45, and 55 are now allowable, and an indication of same is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6, 8, 9, 14, 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 31, 32, 36-44, 46-54, and 56-64 are dependent upon one of independent claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 35, 45, and 55. Thus, since independent claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 35, 45, and 55 should be allowable as discussed above, claims 2, 6, 8, 9, 14, 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 31, 32, 36-44, 46-54, and 56-64 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1, 13, 25, 30, 35, 45, and 55. Moreover, these claims recite additional features which are not claimed, disclosed, or even suggested by the cited references taken either alone or in combination.

At this point it should be noted that claims 12, 24, 29, 34, 46, 52, and 56 have been amended solely for purposes of providing proper antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned obviousness rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25-27, 30-32, and 35-64 be withdrawn.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an

early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

1 (Currently Amended). A method for routing a call across a first ATM network toward a second ATM network, each network having an addressing format, the addressing format of the first network being different from the addressing format of the second network, the call having an associated signaling message specifying a destination address in the second network, the method comprising the steps of:

translating the destination address into a local address in the addressing format of the first network;

repacking the signaling message with the local address as a routing address by demoting the destination address from a first signaling message parameter to a second signaling message parameter and inserting the local address into the first signaling message parameter;

routing the call through the first network using the local address; and

repacking the signaling message with the destination address as the routing address.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

forwarding the call toward the second network.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of translating the destination address into a local address includes the substep of:

querying an address translation database populated with an address interface identifier pair to obtain the local address.

4 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of translating the destination address into a local address includes the substep of:

querying an address translation database populated with an address interface identifier pair to obtain the local address, wherein the interface identifier pair specifies as the local address the address of an egress port in the first network.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of translating the destination address into a local address includes the substep of:

querying an address translation database populated with an address interface identifier pair to obtain the local address, wherein the interface identifier pair specifies as the local address the address of an egress port in the first network and specifies the destination address, and wherein the local address

corresponds to the destination address such that routing the call to the local address causes the call to be routed toward the second network.

6 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of translating the destination address into a local address includes the substep of:

applying a conversion algorithm to the destination address to obtain the local address.

7 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of translating the destination address into a local address includes the substep of:

applying a conversion algorithm to the destination address to obtain the local address, wherein the local address corresponds to the destination address such that routing the call to the local address causes the call to be routed toward the second network.

8 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the step of routing the call through the first network includes the substep of:

carrying the destination address transparently across the

first network.

9 (Original). The method of claim 8, wherein the signaling message further specifies a destination address in an end system beyond the second network, and wherein the step of routing the call through the first network further includes the substep of:

carrying the end system destination address transparently across the first network.

10 (Original). The method of claim 8, wherein the signaling message further specifies a destination address in an end system beyond the second network, wherein the destination address is a network address and the end system destination address is a user address, and wherein the step of routing the call through the first network further includes the substep of:

carrying the end system destination address transparently across the first network.

11 (Cancelled).

12 (Currently Amended). The method of claim ~~11~~1, wherein the step of repacking the signaling message with the destination address includes the substeps of:

discarding the local address from the first signaling message parameter; and

promoting the destination address to the first signaling message parameter.

13 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for use in routing a call across a first ATM network toward a second ATM network, each network having an addressing format, the addressing format of the first network being different from the addressing format of the second network, the call having an associated signaling message specifying a destination address in the second network, the apparatus comprising:

an address resolution server for translating the destination address into a local address in the addressing format of the first network;

means for repacking the signaling message with the local address as a routing address by demoting the destination address from a first signaling message parameter to a second signaling message parameter and inserting the local address into the first signaling message parameter;

means for routing the call through the first network using the local address; and

means for repacking the signaling message with the

destination address as the routing address.

14 (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

means for forwarding the call toward the second network.

15 (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the address resolution server includes:

means for querying an address translation database populated with an address interface identifier pair to obtain the local address.

16 (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the address resolution server includes:

means for querying an address translation database populated with an address interface identifier pair to obtain the local address, wherein the interface identifier pair specifies as the local address the address of an egress port in the first network.

17 (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the address resolution server includes:

means for querying an address translation database populated with an address interface identifier pair to obtain

the local address, wherein the interface identifier pair specifies as the local address the address of an egress port in the first network, and wherein at least one interface identifier pair further specifies the destination address, the local address corresponding to the destination address such that routing the call to the local address causes the call to be routed toward the second network.

18 (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the address resolution server includes:

means for applying a conversion algorithm to the destination address to obtain the local address.

19 (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the address resolution server includes:

means for applying a conversion algorithm to the destination address to obtain the local address, wherein the local address corresponds to the destination address such that routing the call to the local address causes the call to be routed toward the second network.

20 (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the means for routing the call through the first network includes:

means for carrying the destination address transparently across the first network.

21 (Original). The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the signaling message further specifies a destination address in an end system beyond the second network, and wherein the means for routing the call through the first network further includes:

means for carrying the end system destination address transparently across the first network.

22 (Original). The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the signaling message further specifies a destination address in an end system beyond the second network, wherein the destination address is a network-level address and the end system destination address is a user-level address, and wherein the means for routing the call through the first network further includes:

means for carrying the end system destination address transparently across the first network.

23 (Cancelled).

24 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim ~~23~~13, wherein the means for repacking the signaling message with the

destination address includes:

means for discarding the local address from the first signaling message parameter; and

means for promoting the destination address to the first signaling message parameter.

25 (Currently Amended). A communications network comprising:

a first ATM network interconnected to a second ATM network, each network having an addressing format, the addressing format of the first network being different from the addressing format of the second network, the first network handling a call having an associated signaling message specifying a destination address in the second network, the first network including:

an address resolution server for translating the destination address into a local address in the addressing format of the first network;

means for repacking the signaling message with the local address as a routing address by demoting the destination address from a first signaling message parameter to a second signaling message parameter and inserting the local address into the first signaling message parameter;

means for routing the call through the first network using the local address; and

means for repacking the signaling message with the destination address as the routing address.

26 (Original). The communications network of claim 25, further including:

means for forwarding the call toward the second network.

27 (Original). The communications network of claim 25, wherein the means for routing the call through the first network includes:

means for carrying the destination address transparently across the first network.

28 (Cancelled).

29 (Currently Amended). The communications network of claim ~~28~~25, wherein the means for repacking the signaling message with the destination address includes:

means for discarding the local address from the first signaling message parameter; and

means for promoting the destination address to the first signaling message parameter.

30 (Currently Amended). A method for routing a call in a communications network, the communications network comprising a first ATM network interconnected to a second ATM network, each network having an addressing format, the addressing format of the first network being different from the addressing format of the second network, the first network handling a call having an associated signaling message specifying a destination address in the second network, the method comprising the steps of:

translating the destination address into a local address in the addressing format of the first network;

repacking the signaling message with the local address as a routing address by demoting the destination address from a first signaling message parameter to a second signaling message parameter and inserting the local address into the first signaling message parameter;

routing the call through the first network using the local address; and

repacking the signaling message with the destination address as the routing address.

31 (Original). The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

forwarding the call toward the second network.

32 (Original). The method of claim 30, wherein the step of routing the call through the first network includes the substep of:

carrying the destination address transparently across the first network.

33 (Cancelled).

34 (Currently Amended). The method of claim ~~33~~30, wherein the step of repacking the signaling message with the destination address includes the substeps of:

discarding the local address from the first signaling message parameter; and

promoting the destination address to the first signaling message parameter.

35 (Currently Amended). A method for routing a call in a communications network, the communications network having a first ATM network interconnected to a second ATM network, each network having an addressing format, the addressing format of the first network being different from the addressing format of the second network, the first network handling a call having an

associated signaling message specifying a destination address,
the method comprising:

translating the destination address into a local address in
the addressing format of the first ATM network;

~~storing the destination address;~~

repacking the signaling message with the local address as a
routing address by storing the destination address as a second
signaling message parameter and inserting the local address as a
first signaling message parameter;

routing the call through the first ATM network using the
local address; and

~~associating the call~~ repacking the signaling message with
the stored destination address as the routing address.

36 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 35, wherein
said storing further comprises pushing the destination address
on to a stack.

37 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, wherein
said stack is a last in first out stack.

38 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 36, further
comprising:

removing the destination address from the stack.

39 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 38, further comprising:

repacking the signaling message with the removed destination address.

40 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 35, further comprising:

carrying the destination address transparently across the first ATM network.

41 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 35, further comprising:

determining an additional local address in the addressing format of a third ATM network.

42 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 41, further comprising:

repacking the signaling message with the additional local address; and

routing the call through the third ATM network using the additional local address, wherein the destination address is

transparently carried through the third network.

43 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 38, further comprising:

popping the local address off the stack.

44 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 35, wherein said step of translating occurs at the egress side of the first network.

45 (Currently Amended). An apparatus for routing a call in a communications network, the communications network having a first ATM network interconnected to a second ATM network, each network having an addressing format, the addressing format of the first network being different from the addressing format of the second network, the first network handling a call having an associated signaling message specifying a destination address, the apparatus comprising:

an address resolution server for translating the destination address into a local address in the addressing format of the first ATM network;

~~means for storing the destination address;~~

means for repacking the signaling message with the local

address as a routing address by storing the destination address
as a second signaling message parameter and inserting the local
address as a first signaling message parameter;

means for routing the call through the first ATM network
using the local address; and

means for ~~associating the call~~ repacking the signaling
message with the stored destination address as the routing
address.

46 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 45, wherein said
means for repacking by storing further comprises means for
pushing the destination address on to a stack.

47 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 46, wherein
said stack is a last in first out stack.

48 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 46, further
comprising:

means for removing the destination address from the stack.

49 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 48, further
comprising:

means for repacking the signaling message with the removed

destination address.

50 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

means for carrying the destination address transparently across the first ATM network.

51 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:

means for determining an additional local address in the addressing format of a third ATM network.

52 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim ~~41~~51, further comprising:

means for repacking the signaling message with the additional local address; and

means for routing the call through the third ATM network using the additional local address, wherein the destination address is transparently carried through the third network.

53 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 48, further comprising:

means for popping the local address off the stack.

54 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 45, wherein said address resolution server translates at the egress side of the first network.

55 (Currently Amended). A communications network, comprising:

a first ATM network interconnected to a second ATM network, each network having an addressing format, the addressing format of the first network being different from the addressing format of the second network, the first network handling a call having an associated signaling message specifying a destination address;

an address resolution server for translating the destination address into a local address in the addressing format of the first ATM network;

~~means for storing the destination address;~~

means for repacking the signaling message with the local address as a routing address by storing the destination address as a second signaling message parameter and inserting the local address as a first signaling message parameter;

means for routing the call through the first ATM network using the local address; and

means for ~~associating the call~~ repacking the signaling

message with the stored destination address as the routing address.

56 (Currently Amended). The communications network of claim 55, wherein said means for repacking by storing further comprises means for pushing the destination address on to a stack.

57 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 56, wherein said stack is a last in first out stack.

58 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 56, further comprising:

means for removing the destination address from the stack.

59 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 58, further comprising:

means for repacking the signaling message with the removed destination address.

60 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 55, further comprising:

means for carrying the destination address transparently across the first ATM network.

61 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 55, further comprising:

means for determining an additional local address in the addressing format of a third ATM network.

62 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 61, further comprising:

means for repacking the signaling message with the additional local address; and

means for routing the call through the third ATM network using the additional local address, wherein the destination address is transparently carried through the third network.

63 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 58, further comprising:

means for popping the local address off the stack.

64 (Previously Presented). The communications network of claim 55, wherein said address resolution server translates at the egress side of the first network.